

**The Carolina DX  
Association**

# *The Pileup*

**Carolina DX Association**

FEBRUARY, 1990

BILL TAYLOR - KD4IL - EDITOR

## THURGOOD ON ANNOUNCE PACKETS

Greetings fellow DXers of the Higher Order! Welcome to DXing in the 1990's! Late in 1989 I received a letter from a young DXer asking, "Mr. Thurgood, please tell me about the PacketCluster System Operators, the SYSOPs. I have heard lots of rumors and tales, even that some are referred to by military rank. Teach me, please."

Well, my son, the SYSOPs do, indeed, represent a rare breed in DXing. These are the men and women out there night and day, in good weather and bad, keeping our Packetclusters running smoothly. I ask you this: where would we be without them? In these days of "dog-eat-dog" and "me first DXing, the SYSOPs represent possibly the only resemblance to DXing as it used to be. Surely you've heard the stories of DXing when people helped each other. SYSOPs may be our last endangered species of friendly, cordial, DXers.

Have you ever considered the patience required of a SYSOP? Incredible it must be! Imagine the SYSOP sitting patiently while someone uses the DX PacketCluster to make weather announcements (each of which requiring some 600 packets)!

Imagine the SYSOP sitting patiently while someone uses the general ANNOUNCE command to address a question to users on a specific node! Surely wrath must burn within

(Continued on next page)



## From The Editor's Desk

There is not a lot from my desk this month. There has been some discussion about producing the *Pileup* every other month but for now it will be monthly. We are paying \$.10 a page for printing (front and back). If you know of a more cost effective printer, please advise me. Don't forget that dues are due. See the notice below.

There has been a lot of discussion about announcements on the Packetcluster. Mr Thurgood speaks to that in this issue. Get ready for the Charlotte Hamfest and Computerfair on March 17 and 18 at the Charlotte Convention Center. See "UALL" there.

Bill Taylor KD4IL

## *Notice*

Dues are payable for 1990. The upper right corner of your mailing label has a date. If that date is 1989, then your 1990 dues are due. The current rate for CDXA dues are \$30 for packet using members and \$15 otherwise. Dues payments should be sent to:

W4UNP, Bill Jennings  
630 Whitepine Drive  
Catawba, SC 29704

### (Thurgood Continues)

him! But, as the query of a struggling PacketCluster user, there he is, assisting in any way he can. My, these are pillars in our DXing community!

The SYSOPs recognize the limited resources of the PacketCluster. They know that selfish abuse of the system as evidenced by numerous ANNOUNCE commands for frivolous reasons can slow the system down and hamper its designed use — dissemination of DX information for the truly Deserving. The SYSOPs set pristine examples for us to follow, but like the prophets of old, how many of us follow their leadership? How many of us discount their admonitions? How many of us resent their exhortations to use the system less selfishly?

The next time you see someone abusing the PacketCluster by endless and useless ANNOUNCE commands, remember the SYSOP. Remember the time, effort, and money he has invested to provide this system for you. Remember that though some DXers of a lesser god may joyfully participate in the "Sins of the Cluster" for a season, we DXers of the Higher Order must remain pure. Through our example there is hope for DXing and PacketCluster use throughout this new decade and on into the 21st century.

Your friend and fellow sojourner in this never-ending quest for DX Greatness,

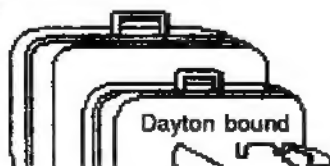
Patrick S. Thurgood, SA1NT/W4

(Thanks to the **LONGPATH** from the NADXC)

### Dayton Trip

Don't forget to sign up for the Bus trip to the Dayton Hamfest. Rooms are running out fast. This trip includes private chartered coach and tour of USAF Museum also. For more information and rates (very reasonable), contact:

Robert Starling, N4GVF  
7921 Holly Road  
Charlotte, NC 28227  
Phone 704-568-7611



### OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO 18 DECEMBER 1989

Dear Friends,

We just finished a magnificent operation here. There was never a time when there was no DX stations to be heard either on 10, 15, 20 or 40 meters.

We have now traveled in 208 countries and worked DXpeditions from more than half of them, covering a period of 60 years, from 1929 thru 1989.

Our most successful operation before coming here, was 11 years ago in the country of Montserrat using the call VP2MAQ, where we worked nearly 14,000 amateur radio stations in 149 countries.

We beat the record here, working nearly 14,000 stations located in 161 countries in a 3-week period, using the call XT2KG....

We continue our trip around the world and hope to contact all of you from more DX locations.

73 es 88, Lloyd, W6KG and Iris, W6QL

### The K4LVV VHF contest group on top!

Again this year the old W4BFB VHF contest group was involved in the Winter VHF contest. Some of the older guys included WA4VCC, WB4TLX (not old but a lot of experience on VHF contests), K4MQG, AA4SC, KU4V, and K4LVV who let the boys use his mountain top cabin for the operation. The new comers included N4GVF and WQ4V.

The operation this year included operating positions on 6, 2, 220, 432, and 1296 Mhz. On 2 and 6 a KW amplifier was used. Four towers were used in the operation. The operation was conducted from the mountain top QTH of K4LVV. This QTH overlooks Boone, NC.

WA4VCC says " Conditions on bands were fair at best. Unfortunately 6 meters did not open. A great contest weekend, even with fair conditions".

Rumor is that score exceeded 55k ++ points and looks good!

## Meteor Shower Table for 1990

Date: 21 Dec 89 20:43:31 GMT

Organization: Digital Equipment Corporation

Lines: 23

[Thanks to Joe Reiser, W1JR, for doing the work necessary to calculate this information.]

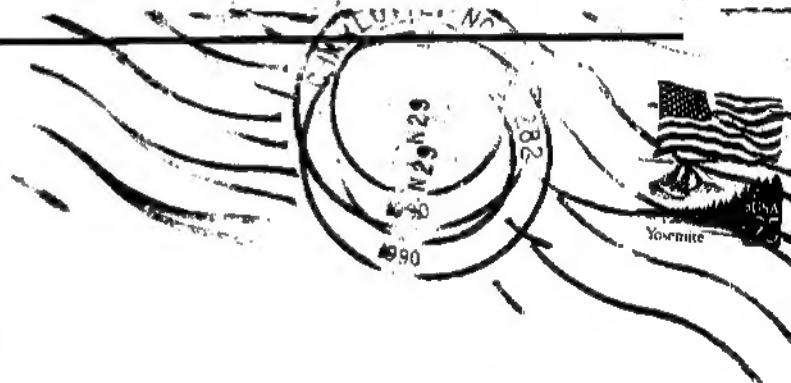
### Peak Times for 1990 Meteor Showers

| Shower Name    | Date        | Peak (UTC) | Duration | Accuracy (+/-) |
|----------------|-------------|------------|----------|----------------|
| Quadrantids    | 03 January  | 1145       | 14 hours | 15 minutes     |
| Lynids         | 22 April    | 0441       | 2.3 days | 12 hours       |
| Eta Aquarids   | 05 May      | 0612       | 3 days   | 12 hours       |
| Piscids        | 05 May      | 1913       | ?        | ?              |
| Arietids       | 07 June     | 1253       | 8 days   | 12 hours       |
| Zeta Perseids  | 09 June     | 2136       | ?        | ?              |
| Delta Aquarids | 29 July     | 0818       | 7 days   | 12 hours       |
| Perseids       | 12 August   | 0625       | 4.6 days | 75 minutes     |
| Orionids       | 21 October  | 0145       | 2 days   | 12 hours       |
| Taurids        | 03 November | 1457       | 20 days  | 12 hours       |
| Cassiopeids    | 03 November | 1430       | ?        | ?              |
| Leonids        | 17 November | 0804       | 4 days   | 12 hours       |
| Geminids       | 13 December | 1204       | 2.5 days | 12 hours       |
| Ursids         | 22 December | 1530       | 2.2 days | 12 hours       |

### The Carolina DX Association

President: Ken Boyd WA4UNZ  
 Vice Pres: Skip Richardson WA4UUP  
 Sec/Tres: Bill Jennings W4UNP  
 Net Mgr: Henry Elwell N4UH  
 Editor: Bill Taylor KD4IL

Address all *Pileup* correspondence to KD4IL.  
 PO Box 232  
 Fort Mill, SC 29715



## First Class Mail

WA4UNZ 89  
 Ken Boyd  
 202 Horseshoe Circle  
 Fort Mill SC 29715

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